

Jenny Parker, Petition to Remain in Virginia, 1813

To the hon^lb [honorable], the Senate & House of Representatives of Virginia

The petition of Jenny (alias Jenny Parker) humbly Sheweth that your petitioner is as from an early period of her life the servant of Josiah Wilson des late of Surry County and having during his life served him faithfully she at his death which happened on the day of December 1812 in consideration of the faithful and correct conduct of your petitioner by his last will and testament emancipated and set free the said Jenny your petitioner but she is advised that notwithstanding the said emancipation in the said will contained she cannot remain and enjoy her freedom in her native state without subjecting her self to the penalty of those laws enacted by the legislature of Virginia prohibiting the emancipation of slaves unless it be by the special permission of the legislature. She therefore prays that your honorable body will take her case into consideration and make for her the necessary provision to enable her to reside and live in her native state. She further begs leave to state that all her children and friends reside in the County of Surry and its immediate neighborhood and that one of her children has been long since emancipated and is possessor of both real and personal estate, owning as slaves two of your petitioners children. Your petitioner being advanced in years & believing in the ordinary course of things that she cannot long continue to live and deeming it oppressive at her advanced period of life to be comp^ell^d to desert her native state children and friends to seek residence in some to her unknown quarter of our Country, She hopes that from the reasons herein before set forth and the annexed certificates proving the correct conduct of your petitioner which is signed by all the children of her late Master Josiah Wilson the honor which she asks of the legislature of her native state will be obtained and she as is duty bound will ever pray ----

Citation: Petition of Jenny Parker, Surry County, 1813, Legislative Petitions Digital Collection, Library of Virginia.

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We certify that we have long known Jenny (alias Jenny Parker) and have no hesitation in saying that the contents of her petition is correct and further we well recollect that it was the particular wish of our dr. [dear] Father Josiah Wilson that She should retain her freedom & continue to reside in the State of Virginia, with her daughter who has been long since emancipated and is possessed of both real & personal estate in the County of Surry

-- Given under our hand this 23d day of Nov 1813

John Wilson

Samuel Wilson

James Wilson

We certify that we have long known Jenny (alias Jenny Parker) formerly the property of Josiah Wilson decd. and have always understood that she was a correct and faithful servant. Given under our hand this 23rd Nov 1813--

Charles A Graves

Wm Randolph

Thos Shelby

James Simpson

Meshack Goodrich

Blanks Moody

Peter T. Spratley

Henry Gray

Burwell Persons

Langley C. Wilke

Petition of Jenny (alias Jenny Parker__) (Rejected) Nov 23d 1813

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